

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday July 8th 2001

Results of Spring Counties Contest

The following are the results of the Counties Contest (low power fixed section) held on the 16th of April 2001. First place was taken by Paul Norris EI3ENB who worked 7 counties in 25 QSO's and 114 points giving a grand total of 798. Second place went to Tom McDermott EI9CJ with 22 QSO's 5 counties and 86 points giving a total of 430. The FM only section was won by Fr. N. T. Foley EI4CF with 13 QSO's in 7 counties giving 322 points. Well done to all that took part.

Guitar Legend Chet Atkins, W4CGP Silent Key

On June the 30th music legend Chet Atkins died at the age of 77 at home in Nashville, Tennessee. Atkins was known world-wide for his distinctive guitar style and his profound influence on the music world. Music fans may have known Atkins as "Mr. Guitar," but to fellow Amateur Radio operators, he was W4CGP. Originally using the callsign WA4CZD, he obtained the vanity callsign W4CGP in 1998 (CGP standing for certified guitar picker). He won 14 Grammy awards during his career and was elevated to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973. He was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in part to recognise his guitar-picking technique as well as his wide influence on music. He had more than 100 albums to his credit. Music has lost one of its legends and amateur radio has lost a dear friend. More information on Chet Atkins is on the Chet Atkins, Mister Guitar Web site www.misterguitar.com/index.html

70 centimetres contest

The Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy which was presented to the IRTS by Tipperary Amateur Radio Group this year is to be awarded to the station that achieves the highest number of points in a 70 cm FM simplex competition which will run annually on all Sundays over the month of July. 70 cm FM simplex contacts made during the IRTS UHF/VHF field day are also valid for this award. Power is restricted to 150 watts and contacts can be made mobile, portable and stationary. This is an IRTS members only competition and standard competition logs are to be submitted to the IRTS Contest Manager before the 31st of August. For further details please e-mail TRG secretary at john.burke@honeywell.com or phone 087 2238125.

QSL Bureau

Pat EI2HX has a large amount of Special Event QSL cards. These have 3 and 2 letter call signs. He has no information on where to forward these cards to. If you or your club have activated a Special Event over the last few years, could you please contact Pat with the relevant information. He can be contacted at QTHR or by e-mail to patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com.

VHF News

A reminder that there is a call in on 70.2625 MHz on the first Tuesday of every month. There is also a call in every week on 144.300 MHz SSB after the Sunday 11 o'clock IRTS news. The squares table is up and running again this year, anyone working DX on any of the VHF/UHF bands please forward their totals for inclusion on this table. The table will be published in each edition of the newsletter. Up to date scores are on EI7GL's web page at www.qsl.net/ei7gl

LF News

Following the recent transatlantic successes on 136 kHz, tests in the UK on the 73 kHz band have yielded promising results. During the night of Sunday the 3rd of June, G3AQC transmitted extremely slow Morse using a 30-second dot period and at around 0200 UTC, part of his callsign was received by VE1ZJ some 4408 kilometres distant. More tests will be carried out soon and it is hoped that a complete callsign can be received at the other side of the Atlantic. This is the lowest frequency at which a signal from a radio amateur has ever crossed the Atlantic.

Staying with the LF bands. A radio transmission from England on 16 kHz has also been heard across the Atlantic. The DownUnder LF Group in the United States reports that the 16 kHz morse code transmission came from station GBR in Rugby, United Kingdom on Tuesday the 29th of May.

The first reception report was received from SV8QG on the island of Lesbos shortly after the transmission concluded. Later, a complete transcript was received from David Riley, AA1A who received the 12:00 UTC broadcast with a report of 539.

The message from GBR was a special transmission to mark the centenary of submarine operation by the Royal Navy. The transmission also celebrated the 75 years of radio broadcasts to ships and submarines from the GBR transmitter.

DX News

Cambodia on the air as XU7ABR from the 17th of July to the 2nd of August. The Modern DX Newsletter reports that DC9KZ, DL4KQ, DL5OAB and DL8KB will be operating 160 through 6 meters. Modes will be SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK-31. QSL as via DL4KQ.

An all female operation is planned from Aland Islands as OH0YLS from the 29th of June to the 5th of July. They should be operational on 14.185, 21.285 and 28.485 MHz. QSL to Marjatta Kaistila, OH1MK at her Callbook address.

Drake Virtual Museum

If you are interested in vintage Drake equipment, you might like to visit the R.L. Drake Virtual Museum on the web. The site contains all of the Drake amateur, commercial and military gear ever included in the company catalog. You can find it at www.dproducts.be/Drake_Museum

Items for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be forwarded to Dave Moore EI4BZ at 021-4353853 in the evenings or at 021-4823172 during office hours. Items can be submitted to Dave by e-mail at ei4bz@eircom.net and you can fax him at 021-4354113.

Items for inclusion in the Radio News should be forwarded to Mark Wall EI7IS at QTHR or via e-mail to ei7is@qsl.net or cyberis@e-merge.ie. Items can also be sent to Mark over the phone at 087-6302026.

News can also be submitted via e-mail to news@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both news services.

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